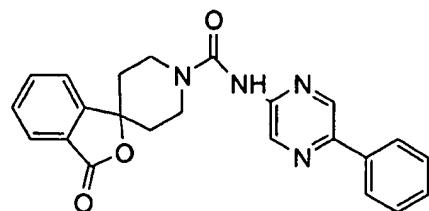


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Amendments to the Claims

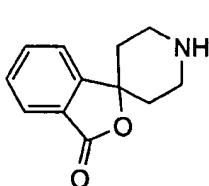
This listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of Claims in the application:

1. (Previously presented) A process for preparing a compound of formula I:

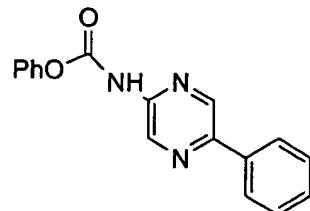


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comprising coupling a compound of formula II with a compound of formula III in the presence of an organic base selected from the group consisting of  $\text{NBu}_3$ ,  $\text{Me}_2\text{NBu}$  and  $\text{Me}_2\text{NBn}$  in a solvent system selected from the group consisting of MeCN, MeCN/water and DMF/water.



II



III

2. (Canceled)

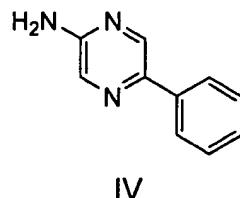
3. (Canceled)

~~2.~~ <sup>A/</sup> (Previously presented) The process of Claim 1 further comprising the step of combining 2-amino-5-phenylpyrazine (IV) and phenyl chloroformate in MeCN to yield the compound of formula III.

5. (Canceled)

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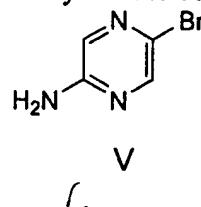
3 ~~6.~~ (Currently amended) The A process for preparing a compound of formula III of Claim 4 further comprising the step of combining 2-amino-5-bromopyrazine (V) and phenyl boronic acid in an organic solvent system in the presence of a catalyst to yield the compound of formula IV.



4 ~~7.~~ (Original) The process of Claim ~~6~~ wherein the catalyst is selected from the group consisting of  $\text{PdCl}_2\text{-dppf-CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ,  $\text{Pd}(\text{PPh}_3)_4$ ,  $\text{Pd}(\text{OAc})/\text{PPh}_3$ ,  $\text{Cl}_2\text{Pd}[(\text{P}(\text{Et})_3)_2]$ ,  $\text{Pd}(\text{DIPHOS})_2$ ,  $\text{Cl}_2\text{Pd}(\text{Bipy})$ ,  $[\text{PdCl}(\text{Ph}_2\text{PCH}_2\text{PPh}_2)]_2$ ,  $\text{Cl}_2\text{Pd}[\text{P}(\text{o-tol})_3]_2$ ,  $\text{Pd}_2(\text{dba})_3/\text{P}(\text{o-tol})_3$ ,  $\text{Pd}_2(\text{dba})/\text{P}(\text{furyl})_3$ ,  $\text{Cl}_2\text{Pd}[\text{P}(\text{furyl})_3]_2$ ,  $\text{Cl}_2\text{Pd}(\text{PMePh}_2)_2$ ,  $\text{Cl}_2\text{Pd}[\text{P}(4\text{-F-Ph})_3]_2$ ,  $\text{Cl}_2\text{Pd}[\text{P}(\text{C}_6\text{F}_6)_3]_2$ ,  $\text{Cl}_2\text{Pd}[\text{P}(\text{2-COOH-Ph})(\text{Ph})_2]_2$ ,  $\text{Cl}_2\text{Pd}[\text{P}(4\text{-COOH-Ph})(\text{Ph})_2]_2$ .

5 ~~8.~~ (Original) The process of Claim ~~7~~ wherein the catalyst is selected from the group consisting of  $\text{PdCl}_2\text{-dppf-CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ,  $\text{Pd}(\text{PPh}_3)_4$ ,  $\text{Cl}_2\text{Pd}[\text{P}(4\text{-F-Ph})_3]_2$ ,  $\text{Cl}_2\text{Pd}[\text{P}(4\text{-COOH-Ph})(\text{Ph})_2]_2$ .

6 ~~9.~~ (Original) The process of Claim ~~6~~ further comprising the step of combining 2-aminopyrazine and a bromination agent to yield the compound of formula V.



7 ~~10.~~ (Original) The process of Claim ~~9~~ wherein the bromination agent is selected from the group consisting of  $\text{Br}_2$ ,  $\text{NBS}$ ,  $\text{Bu}_4\text{NBr}_3$ ,  $\text{N-bromo acetamide}$  and  $1,3\text{-dibromo-5,5-dimethylhydantoin}$ .

8 ~~11.~~ (Original) The process of Claim ~~10~~ wherein the bromination agent is selected from the group consisting of  $\text{NBS}$  and  $1,3\text{-dibromo-5,5-dimethylhydantoin}$ .